

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 08011 240421Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 EUR-12 /075 W
----- 021277

R 231200Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHCC 0773

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, PK, IR, AF

SUBJ: FRENCH PRESS INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT DAOUD

REF: KABUL 7993 (USINFO DEC 22)

1. DEC 21 RADIO AFGHANISTAN NEWSCAST CARRIED DARI ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW CONDUCTED IN FRENCH OF PRESIDENT DAOUD BY AFP REPORTER. (TEXT SEE REF USINFO MSG). WHILE INTERVIEW COVERED LITTLE NEW GROUND, SEVERAL POINTS ARE WORTH NOTING.

2. THIS INTERVIEW MARKED FIRST TIME AFGHAN LEADER HAS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT EFFECTS OF WORLD MARKET CONDITIONS ON AFGHAN ECONOMY. WHILE GOA REPS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS HAVE REQUESTED SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OF AFGHANISTAN AS DEPRIVED AREA, GOA OFFICIALS IN KABUL HAVE IN PAST SHOWN TENDENCY TO CONSIDER AFGHANISTAN SOMEHOW INSULATED FROM THE SHOCKS OF WORLD INFLATION AND MARKET CHANGES. INTERVIEW ALSO LISTS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHICH PROJECTS WILL BE FINANCED WITH IRANIAN AID. NO SURPRISES EXCEPT MENTION OF DESHU ROAD (ALONG HELMAND RIVER), WHICH IS ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PROJECT. (APPEARS THEREFORE THAT IRANIANS MAY HELP UPGRADE IT, OR EXTEND IT TO IRAN).

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SPECIFICATION OF IRANIAN AID FOR LOWER HELMAN RIVER COMPLETES

PICTURE OF AFGHAN WESTERN WATER DEVELOPMENT. (KUWAITS WILL ASSIST IN FARAH RIVER SYSTEM, SAUDI ARABIA WILL HELP WITH HARI RIVER SYSTEM NEAR HERAT). (SEE KABUL 7966)

3. RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. IN RESPONSE TO INEVITABLE QUESTIONS ON PASHTUNISTAN, DAOUD REITERATED FAMILIAR THEME OF GOA DESIRE FOR PEACE IN THE REGION AND READINESS FOR TALKS PROVIDING THERE ARE NO PRECONDITIONS. HE ALSO ASSERTED THAT GOA AIM IS "SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PASHTUNS AND BALUCHS". WHILE THIS IS STANDARD FORMULATION OF DAOUD HIMSELF, IT HAS NOT BEEN VOICED PUBLICLY BY ANY HIGH GOA OFFICIAL IN RECENT MONTHS. INSTEAD A CALL FOR GOP TO "RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT" HAS BEEN SOUNDED - A SOMEWHAT Milder DEMAND AS IMPLICATION WAS THAT REAL REGIONAL AUTONOMY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PAKISTAN NATION WOULD SATISFY KABUL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KABUL08011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740373-0823
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741215/aaaaamou.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 KABUL 7993, 74 (USINFO DEC 2
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH PRESS INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT DAOUD
TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, PK, IR, AF, (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005